

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Martin John Hofmann  
Title: CHROMATOGRAPHY COLUMNS  
Docket No.: 34156

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, it is requested that the following amendments be made.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 6, 8 and 9 to read as follows:

1           6. (amended) A chromatography column according to  
2 claim 1, in which an outwardly-directed sealing portion  
3 at or adjacent the front end of the plunger which makes a  
4 seal directly against the column wall, or which mounts a  
5 deformable seal element for making such a seal, is joined  
6 to the permeable filter portion via a one-piece integral  
7 structure.

1           8. (amended) A chromatography column according to  
2 claim 1, in which the plunger further comprises an outer  
3 plunger wall spaced outwardly from said tubular stem  
4 defining the internal flow conduit, the outer plunger  
5 wall and tubular stem being integrally bonded to one